

ABSTRACT

A hydrocarbon fuel is either imperfectly combusted or thermally decomposed in a reactor 11, thereby producing a high-temperature gas flow containing fullerenes and soot. A mixture of the fullerenes and soot is collected from the gas flow using a filtering unit 12 which includes a heat-resistant filtering member made of either a porous ceramic material or a porous metal material. The fullerenes are collected from the mixture by usual means. These processes according to the method of the present invention make it possible to produce a large amount of fullerenes.